

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03393 201543Z
ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4663
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 3393
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, ZA
SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN LEADERSHIP S COMMENTS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: BOTH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND ZAMBIA S PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE
AT GENEVA MARK CHONA, IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS GAVE POSTIVE
INTERPRETATIONS TO GENEVA CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENTS. KAUNDA
SAID THE GENEVA TALKS REPRESITED A "BREAK-THROUGH" AND CHONA
EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT THE TALKS WERE NOT A
FAILURE. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING TO THE PRESS IN KINSHASA DECEMBER 19, PRESUDENT
KAUNDA HAILED THE GENEVA TALKS AS A BREAKTHROUGH, BECAUSE FOR THE
FIRST TIME SMITH HAD AGREED TO MAJORITY RULE. KAUNDA THEN
OBSERVED THAT
WHAT REMAINED TO BE DONE WAS TO WORK OUT THE MECHANISM FOR
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 03393 201543Z

TRANSFERRING POWER TO THE BLACK MAJORITY. THIS MUST BE DONE IN A
WAY THAT WILL PREVENT "THE CUNNING SMITH FROM WRIGGLING OUT" OF HIS
AGREEMENT TO MAJORITY RULE. ASKED IF MUGABE S PRESENCE IN
BELGRADE SEEKING ARMS DIDN T INDICATE A FAILURE OF THE TALKS,
KAUNDA NOTED THAT THE TALKS ARE NOT DESIGNED TO RESOLVE A
PEACEFUL SITUATION--THERE IS A WAR GOING ON IN RHODESIA.

2. PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ASSISTANT, MARK CHONA, ON HIS RETURN TO LUSAKA DECEMBER 19 TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GENEVA TALKS WERE NOT A COMPLETE FAILURE. THE FIXING OF A DATE FOR ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE REPRESENTED A VICTORY FOR THE NATIONALISTS. CHONA VIEWED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S CONCERN WITH SETTING A DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE AS A WAY OF TESTING BRITISH SERIOUSNESS IN GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO ZIMBABWE. CHONA EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE BRITISH WOULD PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE RECONVENED CONFERENCE, INCLUDING GIVING IVOR RICHARD MORE AUTHORITY. CHONA ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFERENCES AMONG THE RHODESIA POLITICAL LEADERS AT GENEVA AND SAID THAT THIS WAS NORMAL. HE ADDED THAT THEY HAD DISPLAYED COMMON POINTS OF VIEW ON THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. CHONA INDICATED THAT HE BELIEVED IVOR RICHARD'S RECESS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRONTLINE STATES WOULD FOCUS ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AS PROPOSED BY THE NATIONALISTS AT GENEVA.

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